Programme for Financing Construction and Maintenance of Old Age Homes

477. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH. Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to coordinate a programme with banks to finance construction and maintenance of old age homes in different States;

(b) the existing funding being given by Government for construction and maintenance of old age homes;

(c) whether this amount is sufficient to the demands;

(d) how do Government propose to meet the demand of old people for facilities in their old age; and

(e) the details of any new initiatives proposed by Government to expand the network of old age homes?

THE MrNISTEROF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the Scheme of assistance to Panchayat Raj Institutions /Voluntary Organizations/Self Help Groups for construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for older persons, may provide a one time grant upto Rs. 30.00 lakhs to an eligible organization for construction of Old Age Homes and Multi Service Centres for older persons. The Voluntary Organizations, Institutions or Organizations set up by the Government as autonomous bodies either under a statute or as a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, I860, educational and other institutions like local bodies and cooperative societies and in exceptional cases State Governments and Union Territory Administrations can apply for assistance for running and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medical Units under the scheme of "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons". Under this programme, no predefined cost heads are stipulated, however, a grant-in-aid up to of Rs. 10.00 lakhs per annum per project can be sanctioned for running and maintenance of Old Age Homes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government have announced a National Policy on Older Persons. This Policy provides a broad frame work for inter-sectoral collaboration and

cooperation both within the Government as welt as between governmental and non-governmental agencies. In particular, this Policy has identified a number of areas of intervention including financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter, education, welfare, protection of life and property etc. for the well being of older persons in the country. The Government have also constituted a National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) to operationalise the Policy. The Government have set up a Secretariat for NCOP called AADHAR which is being coordinated by a Delhi based NGO called Age Well Foundation. Also, the Government have announced a long term Plan of Action (2000-05) for implementation of the provisions of the Policy which has been circulated to concerned Ministries and Departments of the Central Government and State Govemments/UT Administrations.

(e) The AADHAR is in the process of establishing Zilla AADHARs, a net- work of volunteers in every district for the welfare of older persons. It is expected that this network of volunteers would help in expanding the number of old age homes in the country.

Restructuring the Public Sector Steel Plants

478. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of action taken for restructuring the public sector steel plants to make them viable for global marketing; and

(b) the target set and amount likely to be spent for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ K.I SHORE TR1PATHY): (a) and (b) Government have approved the financial and business restructuring package for Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) with a view to improve its competitivness, which will also assist SAIL in marketing its products more effectively. A detailed MOU with specific milestones to implement the plan, within the agreed time frame, has been signed between Ministry of Steel and SAIL. Progress made in the implementation of various tasks of restructuring is reviewed periodically.

Main objective of the restructuring measures is to bring back SAIL on the path of profitability in 2-3 years time. There is no new major investment planned as part of the restructuring package of SAIL.